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Inventor: Gordon Herman BOKELMAN et al.

Appln. No. New U.S. Patent Appln.

Docket No.: 021238-469

Work Atty: WOT/tlp

Date: February 1, 2002

Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR AIR CURING TOBACCO

*WOT*

The following was/were received in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date stamped hereon:

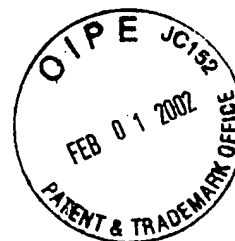
- ☒ Utility Patent Application Transmittal
- ☐ Design Patent Application Transmittal
- ☐ Continuing Prosecution Application Request
- ☐ Provisional Application Cover Sheet
- ☐ Provisional Application Transmittal
- ☐ Continuation/Divisional Application (Rule 1.53(b)) with copy of application
- ☐ Request for Continued Examination

INCLUDING:

- ☒ Specification (pages 1 - 11)
- ☒ Claims (claim(s) 1 - 20, 4 pgs.)
- ☒ Drawings (Fig(s). 1a - 3, 3 pgs.)
- ☒ Abstract of the Disclosure

- ☒ Executed Declaration/Power of Attorney
- ☐ Unexecuted Declaration/Power of Attorney
- ☒ Assignment/Assignment Recordation Form Cover Sheet (PTO-1595)
- ☐ Claim for Convention Priority w/\_ certified copy(s)
- ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- ☐ Information Discl. Statement Transmittal Letter
- ☒ Information Disclosure Citation (PTO-1449)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement w/23 document(s)
- ☐ Petition for \_\_\_ Month Extension of Time
- ☐ Constructive Petition for Extensions of Time
- ☐ Patent Application Data Sheet

- ☒ Check for \$ 780.00 is enclosed
- ☐ Check for \$ \_\_\_ is enclosed
- ☐ Charge \$ \_\_\_ to Deposit Account
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐



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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of	)	<b>MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE</b>
Gordon Herman BOKELMAN et al.	)	
Application No.: 10/060,347	)	Group Art Unit: 1731
Filed: February 1, 2002	)	Examiner: C. Lopez
For: TOBACCO CURING BARN (As Amended)	)	Confirmation No.: 7641
	)	
	)	
	)	
	)	
	)	
	)	

**REQUEST FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT ALL DOCUMENTS  
CITED IN FEBRUARY 1, 2002 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge receipt of a Notice of Allowance dated April 22, 2004. However, the Notice of Allowance did not indicate that documents submitted with the First Information Disclosure filed on February 1, 2002 have been considered by the Examiner. For the convenience of the Examiner, a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement and the stamped postcard submitted on February 1, 2002 are enclosed.


The Examiner is requested to initial and return to the undersigned a copy of the subject Form PTO-1449.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is requested to make of record the documents submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 1, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: April 27, 2004

By:   
Peter K. Skiff  
Registration No. 31,917

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620

VA 140042.1



Patent  
Attorney's Docket No. 021238-469

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of	)	
	)	
Gordon Herman BOKELMAN et al.	)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
	)	
Application No.: New U.S. Patent Application	)	Examiner: Unassigned
	)	
Filed: February 1, 2002	)	
	)	
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR AIR	)	
CURING TOBACCO	)	

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

The documents are being submitted within 3 months of the filing or entry of the national stage of this application or before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later, therefore no fee or statement is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

It is respectfully requested that an Examiner-initialed copy of the attached PTO-1449 form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

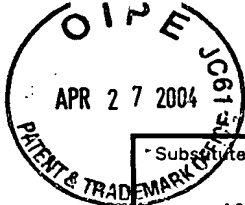
BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: William O. Trousdell  
William O. Trousdell  
Registration No. 38,637

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620

Date: February 1, 2002

**DOCKETED**  
filed 2-1-02 <sup>CS</sup>



\* Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

ATTORNEY'S DKT NO.

021238-469

APPLICATION NO.

New U.S. Patent Appln

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

APPLICANT

Gordon Herman BOKELMAN et al.

FILING DATE

February 1, 2002

GROUP

Unassigned

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication (MM-DD-YYYY)
	Number	Kind Code (if known)		
	2,343,345		R.D. TOUTON	03-07-1944
	2,528,982		R.D. TOUTON	11-07-1950
	3,110,326		F.J. HASSLER	11-12-1963
	3,503,137		R.W. WILSON	03-31-1970
	3,669,429		DEW	06-13-1972
	3,999,303		MARTIN et al.	12-28-1976
	4,021,928		JOHNSON	05-10-1977
	4,192,323		HORNE	03-11-1980
	4,326,537		CROSLIN	04-27-1982
	4,470,422		JOUBERT et al.	09-11-1984
	4,559,956		DE LANGE et al.	12-24-1985
	4,850,264		KISER	07-25-1989
	4,960,041		KISER	10-02-1990
	5,146,977		KISER	09-15-1992
	5,586,932		KISER	12-24-1996
	5,685,710		MARTINEZ SAGRERA et al.	11-11-1997

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Foreign Patent Document		Country	Date of Publication (MM-DD-YYYY)	Translation	
	Number	Kind Code (if known)			Yes	no
	CA 557,858		CANADA	05-27-1958		
	SU 1009-414-A		RUSSIA	04-07-1983	abst	
	FR 1,206,397		FRANCE	02-09-1960		X
	FR 583,005		FRANCE	01-05-1925		X
	IT 265119		ITALY	03-24-1929		X
	IT 657767		ITALY	11-16-1963		X

## NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Include name of author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.		
	BUENSOD, A.C., <u>Air Conditioning for Tobacco Manufacturing</u> , Architectural Record, November 1952, pp. 88-89		
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.